



Hammond

County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

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June 21, 2001

To: Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: David E. Janssen 
Chief Administrative Officer

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT - REPORT ON FALSE ALARM FEE

On May 10, 2001 during the Budget hearing, Supervisor Yaroslavsky requested the Chief Administrative Office and the Sheriff to develop a report and draft ordinance relating to implementation of a false alarm response fee. The report was to include an estimate of how much revenue could be generated in the unincorporated areas of the County of Los Angeles, as well as an explanation of how the ordinance would apply to contract cities.

An ordinance allowing imposition of a false alarm response fee already exists, but was never implemented at your Board's request. The attached report from the Sheriff's Department includes a draft amendment to the existing ordinance that would allow the County to impose an alarm permit fee and a false alarm fine.

Revenue

Revenue would consist of an annual permit fee and a false alarm fine for each false alarm response in excess of two responses during a twelve month period. An estimate of potential revenue could not be developed at this time because we have not determined the number of building security systems in the unincorporated areas which would require permits. In addition, the Sheriff's Department does not currently track false alarms based upon whether or not a previous false alarm has occurred at a given location, which is the basis for the proposed false alarm fine.

Falsealarm

Each Supervisor
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Contract Cities

The proposed permit fee and false alarm fine were developed by the Sheriff's Department using data from other local agencies with similar fees and rates. Because many cities already impose false alarms fees, the proposed amendment to the ordinance would not apply to contract cities.

If you have questions, please contact Rochelle Goff at (213) 893-1217.

DEJ:GD
RG:bjs

Attachment

c: Sheriff
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel



LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

County of Los Angeles
Sheriff's Department Headquarters
4700 Ramona Boulevard
Monterey Park, California 91754-2169



June 13, 2001

Mr. David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer
713 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Janssen:

**FALSE ALARM FINES AND
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT SPECIAL FUNDS**

During the May 10, 2001 Budget Hearings, the Board of Supervisors requested the Sheriff's Department to work with your staff to develop information relating to fines for response to false alarms in the unincorporated area and on the nine Sheriff Special Funds. We have developed the attached information for your use in responding to the Board on these issues.

FALSE ALARM FINES

The Sheriff's Department is required by law to respond to all burglar/fire alarm system calls or alarm company referrals. At this time the County does not charge a fine for response to false alarms.

However, numerous public jurisdictions within the Southern California region have instituted laws regarding this, due to the large number of false alarms to which each law enforcement agency responds.

Approximately 38,000 burglar alarm calls occur annually in the unincorporated area.

Although an ordinance to allow imposition of a fee for response to false alarm calls already exists, the Sheriff's Department would recommend an ordinance amendment (Attachment I) to allow the County to recover additional costs expended in responding to false alarm calls and as a deterrent to encourage users to prevent future false alarms.

A Tradition of Service

Mr. David E. Janssen

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The amendment would require that all businesses, residents, and non-profit organizations that own or have installed a building security system must obtain a permit from the Sheriff's Department. We are unable to estimate potential revenue from implementation of an alarm permit fee because we do not have sufficient information at this time to estimate the number of building security systems installed in the unincorporated area.

The amendment would also provide for a false alarm fine. The Department has researched the rate and fee structure that has been instituted by other local public agencies. Using this information, the Department has developed a proposed rate and fee structure to be used in the Los Angeles County unincorporated area (Attachment II). We are unable to estimate revenue from implementation of a false alarm fine at this time because false alarms are not currently tracked on the basis of whether a previous false alarm has occurred at a given location.

The proposed amendment to the ordinance will not apply to the County's contract cities.

If the Board is in concurrence with our proposed program, we will proceed with preparation of the required Board letter and ordinance amendment for placement on the Board's Agenda.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT SPECIAL FUNDS

The Sheriff's Department has sent a separate response on this issue to the Board; however, some of the figures contained in the attachments are incorrect. Specifically:

- Automation Fund: the requested 2001-02 revenue figures are incorrect.
- Countywide Warrant System Fund: the estimated current year expenditure and requested 2001-02 revenue figures are incorrect.
- Narcotic Enforcement Special Fund: the requested 2001-02 revenue figures are incorrect.
- Processing Fee Fund: the 2001-02 request figures are incorrect.

Mr. David E. Janssen

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- **Special Training Fund:** the estimated current year expenditure figures are incorrect and the requested 2001-02 revenue figures are incorrect.
- **Vehicle Theft Program Fund:** the estimated current year expenditure figures are incorrect and the requested 2001-02 revenue figures are incorrect.

We are therefore providing copies of the correct proposed budget detail for all nine of the special funds.

The following three funds are restricted by State statute for specific use and may not be used for any other purpose:

- Automated Fingerprint Identification Fund
- Countywide Warrant System Fund
- Vehicle Theft Program Fund

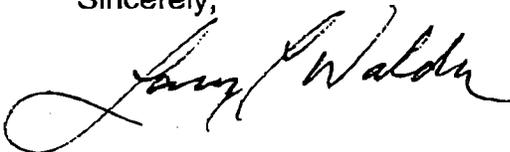
The following five funds are created by State statute and have certain State and/or Federal expenditure restrictions:

- Automation Fund
- Inmate Welfare Fund
- Jail Store Fund
- Narcotic Enforcement Special Fund
- Processing Fee Fund

The Special Training Fund was created by Board ordinance to fund law enforcement related training costs.

Please contact me, or your staff may contact Marvin J. Dixon, Chief, Administrative Services Division, at (323) 526-5488 if you require additional information.

Sincerely,



LARRY L. WALDIE
ASSISTANT SHERIFF

ANALYSIS

This ordinance amends Chapter 13.05 of the Los Angeles County Code, "Burglar and Robbery Alarms," to add requirements concerning a permit to operate or use an alarm system and service charges for false alarms. The ordinance adds a requirement for an annual, non-transferable, permit to activate or use an alarm system. An application provided by the Sheriff's Department must be filled out and submitted with a \$30.00 application processing fee. The information furnished shall be confidential in character. The ordinance also adds service charges to be billed to permittees for each response to a false alarm made by the Sheriff in excess of two responses during a twelve-month period in the following amounts: the third false alarm fee-\$80.00, the fourth false alarm fee-\$160.00, the fifth false alarm fee-\$240.00, the sixth false alarm fee-\$320.00. The ordinance also adds service charges to be billed to non-permittees for each response made by the Sheriff in the following amounts: the first false alarm fee-\$80.00, the second false alarm fee-\$160.00, the third false alarm fee-\$240.00, the fourth false alarm fee-\$320.00. The service charge will be billed to the alarm owner and is due within thirty (30) days. If not paid, the debt may be collected pursuant to any available provision of law. The ordinance also adds a provision which allows the Sheriff to revoke a permit for specified reasons and allows for an appeal by the permittee.

The amendment also makes other nonsubstantive changes.

ORDINANCE NO. _____

An ordinance amending Title 13-Public Peace, Morals and Welfare, of the Los Angeles County Code adding requirements concerning a permit to operate or use an alarm system and service charges for false alarms.

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 13.05.080 is amended to read as follows:

Chapter 13.05**False Alarm**

13.05.080 False Alarm. Maintaining a public nuisance alarm. An alarm owner shall not operate an alarm system which generates more than three false alarms in any 12-month period.

DRAFT

SECTION 2. Section 13.05.090 is amended to read as follows:

The provisions of Sections 13.05.040 through 13.05.080 are not applicable to audible alarms affixed to motor vehicles or to a public telephone utility whose only duty is to furnish telephone service pursuant to tariffs on file with California Public Utilities Commission.

SECTION 3. Section 13.05.120 is renumbered to read as Section 13.05.190.

SECTION 4. Section 13.05.120 is added to read as follows:

13.05.120 Permit Required For Activation of User Alarm System. No alarm user shall activate or allow the use of an alarm system without first applying for and receiving an alarm permit therefor in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter. A separate permit shall be required for each separate building or facility with an installed alarm system. The

permit shall be renewed annually upon filing of a renewal application.

SECTION 5. Section 13.05.130 is added to read as follows:

13.05.130 Application for Alarm Permit. Applications for an alarm user permit or renewal shall be submitted by an alarm owner to the Sheriff on a form prescribed by the Sheriff and shall be accompanied by the requisite annual application processing fee. The fee is established to cover the actual cost of permit issuance and management, including, but not limited to, the cost of investigating and processing the applications for alarm system permits. The Sheriff shall investigate the application and may deny the permit if the system does not comply with the standards and requirements of this Chapter. Any change in the information provided in the application after issuance of a permit shall be provided in writing to the Sheriff within five (5) days of such change.

SECTION 6. Section 13.05.140 is added to read as follows:

13.05.140 Confidentiality. The information furnished and secured pursuant to this Chapter shall be confidential in character and shall not be subject to public inspection and shall be kept so that the contents thereof shall not be known except to persons charged with the administration of this Chapter.

SECTION 7. Section 13.05.150 is added to read as follows:

13.05.150 Alarm System Permit-Fee. An annual permit fee of \$30.00 shall be payable upon the filing of an application to activate or allow the use of an alarm system. Upon any change of location of the alarm system, a new fee in the amount of the regular annual fee shall be due and payable. Alarm system permits for businesses or residences shall be

renewed every year. Any Federal, State or local agency shall be exempt from the payment of the fee provided for in this Section. It shall be a violation of this Chapter if an Alarm Owner fails to obtain an alarm permit within fifteen days after receipt of notification of a violation.

SECTION 8. Section 13.05.160 is added to read as follows:

13.05.160 Permit Nontransferable. No alarm permit issued under the provision of this ordinance shall be assignable or transferable.

SECTION 9. Section 13.05.170 is added to read as follows:

13.05.170 Service Charges. The following service charge shall be billed to and paid by permittees for each response to a false alarm made by the Sheriff in excess of two responses during a twelve-month period: the third false alarm fee -\$80.00; the fourth false alarm fee-\$160.00, the fifth false alarm fee-\$240.00; the sixth false alarm fee-\$320.00. The following service charge shall be billed to and paid by non-permittees for each false alarm response made by the Sheriff: the first false alarm fee -\$80.00; the second false alarm fee-\$160.00, the third false alarm fee-\$240.00, the fourth false alarm fee-\$320.00. The service charge shall be billed to the alarm owner by the Sheriff and shall be due and payable within thirty (30) days of the billing date. If the service charge is not paid, the Sheriff or his/her designee may collect the debt pursuant to any available provision of law. This remedy shall be in addition to any other remedy or penalty provided for in this Chapter. This Section does not apply to a test of an alarm system when permission was obtained in advance from the Sheriff.

SECTION 10. Section 13.05.180 is added to read as follows:

13.05.180 Revocation of User Alarm Permit.

- A. An alarm permit may be revoked by the Sheriff for any of the following reasons:
1. Failure to observe any of the regulations or other provisions of this Chapter.
 2. Where more than two (2) service charges have been imposed pursuant to Section 13.05.170 and where payment for the charges is delinquent.
 3. Where the applicant or permittee, his employee or agent has knowingly made any false, misleading or fraudulent statement of a material fact in the application for a permit, or in any report or record to be filed with the County.
- B. The permittee shall be notified in writing by the Sheriff or his/her designee that the alarm permit has been revoked. The permittee may request in writing, within thirty (30) days, an appeal hearing before the Sheriff or his/her designee to reconsider revocation of the permit. After consideration of the evidence, the Sheriff or his/her designee may revoke the permit, suspend the permit for a time certain or reinstate the permit.

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

BURGLAR ALARM FEE PROPOSAL/ANALYSIS

The proposed base permit and penalty fees are based on similar fees charged by the cities of L
Pasadena. This proposed fee schedule includes a graduated penalty fee for false alarms for those with
permits. The penalty fees incrementally increase by \$80.00 per false alarm incident, with a maximum f

PUBLIC AGENCY	PERMIT FEE	FALSE ALARMS PERMITTED	W/PERMIT FALSE ALARM PENALTY FEE	F P
Los Angeles County	\$30 (Annual Fee)	2 (12 mo.) w/ permit 0 (12 mo.) w/out permit	3 RD = \$80 4 TH = \$160 5 TH = \$240 6 TH + = \$320	1 ST = 2 ND = 3 RD = 4 TH =

BURGLAR ALARM FEE COMPARISON BY CITY/COUNTY

PUBLIC AGENCY	PERMIT FEE	FALSE ALARMS PERMITTED	W/PERMIT FALSE ALARM PENALTY FEE	F P
Los Angeles (City)	1 st yr. = \$31 2 nd yr. + = \$30	2 (12 mo.) w/ permit 1 (12 mo.) w/out permit	\$86 (per incident)	

PUBLIC AGENCY	PERMIT FEE	FALSE ALARMS PERMITTED	W/PERMIT FALSE ALARM PENALTY FEE	NON PERMIT FALSE/ALARM PENALTY FEE
Santa Ana	(Annual Permits) Commercial: \$26 Residence: \$0	3 within 6 mo. of installation	Burglary: \$85 Robbery: \$140 >1/30 days: \$85/\$140 >2/90 days: \$85/\$140 >3/180 days: \$85/\$140 >4/365 days: \$85/\$140	N/A
Long Beach	Commercial: \$12 (1yrs) Residence: \$18 (3yrs)	2 (12 mo.)	3 rd = \$50 4 th = \$100 5 th = \$150 6 th + = \$300	N/A
San Diego (City)	Commercial: \$95 (2yrs) Residence: \$55 (2yrs)	3/30 days 4/90 days 5/180 days 6/365 days	1 st = \$25 2 nd = \$50 3 rd = \$100 4 th + = \$200	N/A
Pasadena	\$95 (4yrs)	3 (12 mo.)	\$89 (per incident)	\$63 (per incident)
Anaheim	N/A	3 (12 mo.)	4 th and 5 th = \$60 6 th and 7 th = \$100 8 th and 9 th = \$200 10 th + = \$300	N/A

PUBLIC AGENCY	PERMIT FEE	FALSE ALARMS PERMITTED	W/PERMIT FALSE ALARM PENALTY FEE	NON-PERMIT FALSE ALARM PENALTY FEE
Huntington Beach	\$30 Annually	2 (12 mo.)	3 rd = \$100 4 th = \$150 5 th = \$200 6 th = \$300 7 th = \$400 8 th = \$500 9 th + = Non Response	N/A
Malibu	1 st yr. = \$40 2 nd yr. + = \$25	2 (12 mo.)	3 rd = \$175 4 th + = \$59	1 st = \$100 2 nd = \$150 3 rd + = \$250
San Bernardino (City)	(Annual Permits) Commercial: \$50 Residential: \$25 Low Income: \$10	4 (12 mo.)	Burglary/Robbery 5 th - 6 th = \$50/\$100 7 th + = \$100/\$200 Low Income: 5 th - 6 th = \$10/\$20 7 th + = \$20/\$40	Burglary/Robbery 1 st - 6 th = \$50/\$100 7 th = \$100/\$200 > 7 th = Non-response Low Income: 1 st - 6 th = \$10/\$20 7 th = \$20/\$40 > 7 th = Non-response
San Diego County	\$48 (One-time fee)	2 (6 mo.)	3 rd = \$50 4 th = \$100 5 th = \$150 6 th = \$200 7 th = \$250 8 th = Revoked	N/A

PUBLIC AGENCY	PERMIT FEE	FALSE ALARMS PERMITTED	W/PERMIT FALSE ALARM PENALTY FEE	NON-PERMIT FALSE ALARM PENALTY FEE
La Canada	N/A	3 (12 mo.)	4 th + = \$50	N/A
Orange County	N/A	2 (12 mo.)	\$64 (per incident)	N/A
Riverside County**	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ventura County**	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

* Contract city with fees already incorporated via city ordinance.

** Agencies which have yet to amend their city/county ordinances to include burglar alarm fees.